

Optimist Club of Cooper City

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April 18, 2024

Reason for Waiver Request and RUA signing:

Following the suspension of the Cooper City Optimist Football program on January 16th, our organization encountered significant challenges. While the suspension did not hinder our ability to utilize Cooper City facilities, it imposed a financial strain on our program. Without the support of the City under Resolution 12-7-5 and the Reciprocal Use Agreement (RUA), our football program cannot operate at full capacity.

The reasons for the suspension stemmed from non-compliance issues, namely the violation of the 70/30 resident rule and the inadvertent misuse of Flamingo West Park for an unofficial sporting event. We deeply appreciate the role of the City's facilities in our program's success and have taken proactive steps to address these concerns.

These steps include ongoing open communication with City staff, intensified social media marketing efforts to attract more Cooper City residents, implementation of stronger resident verification measures, face-to-face meetings with parents, marketing initiatives targeting Cooper City schools, and the appointment of a new Football Commissioner approved by the Cooper City Optimist Board.

Should the football program be reinstated, Cooper City Optimist commits to continued collaboration with City staff to ensure a seamless transition and timely approval of full game and event schedules. We respectfully request a two-season grace period to demonstrate improvements in the overall program and resident ratio. During this period, we pledge to evaluate the Football program's progress and maintain open dialogue with the Parks and Recreation Department as necessary.

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